

## March 14, 2023 ~ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Ladd Village Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in the Village Hall. Village President Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call: Present: Trustees Jim Manning, Dave Margherio, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson, Molly Thrasher, and Mike Urbanowski (6)

In Attendance: Clerk Bezely, Atty. Pat Barry, Treasurer Julie Koch, Police Chief Jacob Frund, Superintendent Doug Englehaupt, & Engineer Adam Ossola

Margherio motioned/Manning second to accept February 28, 2023, regular meeting minutes.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motioned carried 6-0

Urbanowski motioned/Martin second to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$86,606.13

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motioned carried 6-0

Correspondence: Bezely thanked the council for the Birthday card. Happy Birthday was sung.

Public Comment: Todd Bogatitus addressed the council and asked for their support with the grass contract. Bogatitus stated he has been cutting the Village for approximately 10 years. He has been in business for 27 years. He feels he is always accommodating with any additional requests and works hard to make sure the Village is well taken care of and looks good. He told the council he employs 8 full-time employees and many more over the summer. He has 9 mowers to make sure the job gets done.

Committee Reports: Margherio reported that the hole that Sue Wagner mentioned was in her yard due to the Ameren Gas Line replacements has already been addressed and looks good. Margherio asked Ossola about the Safe Routes to School and the Main Avenue Sidewalk grants. Ossola stated that the Safe Routes to School plans are at IDOT and awaiting approval. The bid advertisement will be in June 2023 pending IDOT's approval of the design engineering. Ossola stated that the Main Avenue Sidewalks are progressing forward. This grant probably won't take place this year.

Engineer's Report: Ossola had updated the council when Margherio asked him about the status of 2 grants.

Superintendent's Report: No report. At the end of the meeting, Englehaupt mentioned that Well #3 is down and he has a price of \$10,988.00 from Albrecht Well Drilling. This will be placed on the next agenda for formal approval but it is an emergency repair. Albrecht is planning to repair it this week.

Police Chief: Frund reported that Sam Sarosinski has been submitting grants. He stated he is working on an issue in Ladd but couldn't provide more information. Frund stated that the furniture store's roof is still blowing all over the area. He asked if he needs to ticket the owner. The council addressed Atty. Pat Barry regarding this issue.

Building Inspector: Absent

Village Attorney: Atty. Barry reminded the council that he sent her a letter and found out the next day that she had listed the building with a realtor. There was an interested party who was fully aware of the structural issues and prepared to fix the building. He wanted to locate a salsa business in the building and place a garage door on the front for loading his product. This was discussed with the realtor and the possible buyer. The possible buyer went to Mexico approximately 3-4 weeks ago and there has not been an update. The council feels another letter is necessary. Trustee Nelson asked about the status of the porch at 230 N. LaSalle Ave. No repairs have been made. I told the council and Atty. Barry that the owner spoke with me immediately and stated that he

would definitely get this fixed. I gave the owner 4 names and phone numbers of Ladd people who could make this repair but the owner called them but never heard anything back. I gave him 4 more names and numbers of companies not located in Ladd. Nothing has been done at this point. Atty. Barry will send another letter to see the status of the repair.

Trustee Nelson asked about the old pharmacy, the people living in the back, and how the separation of the meters were coming along in addition to the closing of the hole between the buildings. Atty. Barry stated that the last he knew this building was being sold. Bezely stated the building is in the new owner's name and the new owner told the clerk's office that Mr. Andana was given 6 months to remove all his stuff from the old pharmacy. There are still people living in the back of the building. These renters are possibly opening the front business – she is a seamstress and working in Peru right now. The new owner felt she could put the seamstress in the front business which would allow them to stay living in the back.

The council asked about the status of the Mexican Restaurant. Bezely spoke with the health department and they are moving forward but there are some language issues. Trustee Thrasher asked about the coffee shop and audience member Ruggerio stated he was told that the owners are waiting for a contractor from Chicago to come down and put in the windows and perform some work. The owners live in the back when they are down working on the building. Trustee Manning asked about the gaming parlor and Cattani stated they have had workers in there making changes to the business front. Bezely mentioned that the Massage Therapist is moving to the Schmollinger building once it is ready for her.

New Business: Park Restroom Hours: The council feels the bathrooms should be open Monday – Sunday from 8 am – 10 pm. The street department will open them and the police department will close them. Any vandalism will be reported by the street department or the police. If repairs need to be made due to vandalism a sign will be placed on the restroom doors until a repair is made that states – sorry closed due to vandalism. The restrooms will be opening daily around April 1<sup>st</sup>. Tara will be hired to clean the restrooms again. She did a great job. There is a sign that states the parks are under surveillance 24 hours per day. Getting an additional sign that states vandalism will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law was brought up. Chief Frund stated weekend daytime police coverage is happening more so they will be monitoring any concerns in the parks and the bathrooms.

Grass Cutting Bids: The council discussed the 4 different bids. It was asked if they all had presented insurance and any requirement of the RFP. Bezely stated that SNO N MO presented documents that showed they've been in this business since 2017 and therefore was within the requirement of the RFP. Greg Campbell's company has not been in the lawn-cutting business for 5 years which was one of the requirements of the RFP. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made. Martin stated that the Village of Ladd has had TNT and she personally uses TNT. She feels that he does a wonderful job accommodating any complaints and has done a great job for the Village of Ladd. Trustee Margherio stated that there would be quite a cost savings with hiring the low bidder. Trustee Manning feels that TNT has done a good job for the Village. He feels we know what we have with TNT. A second was made by Jim Manning.

Martin motioned/Manning second to hire TNT Lawn & Snow LLC for 2023-2025 to cut 10 locations of grass outlined on the RFP in the Village of Ladd for \$745.00 per week (1 cut each location).

Ayes: Manning, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motion carried 5-1

Nay: Margherio

Donation to IVYFL: No action was taken

Donation to IVAR: No action was taken

Garbage Service Contract: Jim Pozzi from Republic Services explained the rising costs of recycling in detail along with adding carts to residential garbage pickup. Republic is offering (1) 20-yard dumpster for an annual E-Waste Event. Pricing was explained in detail for the next 5 years. Pozzi explained that if people don't want

to recycle than a 95-gallon cart doesn't need to be delivered to a resident. The carts are not designed to be kept in your garage. They are meant to be kept outside. All garbage must be bagged to help keep loose garbage from blowing around if it gets loose when carts are dumped. If senior citizens preferred the 65-gallon carts that was an option also. There are only 21 residents taking advantage of yard waste pickup. This is not cost-effective for Republic. Yard waste pickup will change next year to \$12.00 per month. (1) large item will still be allowed in the new contract but only (1) 95-gallon cart which means no unlimited garbage anymore. If Republic is chosen carts will be ordered and delivered to Ladd Residents sometime around July 2023. The current contract expires on 9/30/2023 but after hearing and reading the proposal from Republic Services a motion was made to move forward with Republic Services providing garbage services to Ladd. Margherio felt it wouldn't hurt to go out for bids. He has no problem with Republic just felt it was a good idea to advertise bids. Other council members felt that Republic does a good job for the Village and Pozzi has always taken care of any issues that the Clerk's Office has contacted him about. They felt the pricing was competitive.

Nelson motioned/Urbanowski second to Accept the Republic Services Contract for October 1, 2023, thru October 1, 2027, for Garbage and Recycling with Implementing New 95-Gallon Carts

Ayes: Manning, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motion carried 5-1

Nay: Margherio

Water Debt Service CD: Manning motioned/Thrasher second to Deposit the Matured Water Debt Service CD of \$44,343.45 into the checking account upon maturity on March 19, 2023, so the IEPA Loan L17-1762 can be paid off.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motion carried 6-0

Proclaim April as Fair Housing Month: Manning motioned/Martin second to Proclaim April as Fair Housing Month.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motion carried 6-0

Ficek Communications: JC Heerdts explained the "porting" issues with the 815-894 phone numbers and fax numbers. It was explained the Village would not be able to save \$100 per month as previously thought due to these numbers not being able to be ported to Ficek. After a lengthy discussion of the possible options, it was decided to still move forward. All calls will show up as 815-894-2440 Clerk's Office or 815-894-2351 Police Non-Emergency.

Margherio motioned/Martin second to continue with Ficek Electric & Communications installing phones and texting capabilities without being able to eliminate the Comcast cost monthly.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher – Motion carried 5-1

Nay: Urbanowski

Announcements: Margherio mentioned a large number of coyotes in town and asked if there is anything we can do about them. No resolution was mentioned. Denny Galetti is looking to be removed from the Ladd Baseball Account at North Central Bank. He mentioned donating the money to several places. Bezely asked him to hang onto the money since the small diamond needs many repairs. He agreed to have two other people's names put on this account since he no longer has kids in this age group. 2023 Music in the Park is as follows: Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> Joey Figgiani; Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> is Steve Sharp; Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> is Darrell Data; Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> is Greenfield Station. A request was made by resident Brian Szuda to donate a centerpiece for the IVAC dinner on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The council didn't feel it was necessary since we are not members. T-Ball administrators/coaches for this summer are Allyssa Sebben & Sara Smoode. The council appreciates that they are volunteering. Congresswoman Lauren Underwood has a Community Facilities Grant application due on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Sam Sarosinski will submit the grant based on the council's decision. Bezely explained several options and the council feels a request for funds to move the Village Hall, Police Department, and Clerk's Office to the Community Center. This will need remodeling along with an addition. Adam Ossola will help with budgetary numbers so we have a strong grant submission. The picture in the News Tribune of Village President Cattani, Clerk Bezely, Treasurer Koch, Police Chief Frund, and Congresswoman Lauren Underwood was shared

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with the council. William Haas has requested renting the Community Center for 5 Sundays to offer a Praise and Worship Gathering from 9 am – 10 am. This will be on Sundays June 4<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, and July 30<sup>th</sup>. The council feels they would like to donate (1) service date since they donate the use of the Community Center for a Catholic Mass at Christmas. Joseph Bernardi passed away on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Bezely told the council a card was sent along with a sympathy memorial. Joe served on the council in the past and most recently on the zoning board.

Margherio motioned/Thrasher second to adjourn.

Ayes: Manning, Margherio, Martin, Nelson, Thrasher, Urbanowski – Motioned Carried 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Rhonda Bezely, Village Clerk